Castro Denies Guevara Is Slain or Disgraced

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HAVANA, Jan. 16 (AP) Prime Minister Fidel Castro set the world guessing again today about missing guerrilla leader Ernesto (Che) Guevara.

In a speech Saturday night in which Castro claimed a "few revolutionaries" know what Guevara is up to and "the imperialists would be most interested in knowing all the details."

Guevara has been missing from public view since last March. Some rumors have had him dead, others in disgrace. Castro said the rumors were part of an imperialist plot, or alternatively a Trotskyite plot, to "discredit the Cuban revolution."

But after saying this was a subject which should be taken by the horns, Castro trailed off by saying it would be cleared up "when circumstances permit it."

Castro spoke for two hours and 15 minutes to the closing session of the Tri-Continental Solidarity Conference of Asian, African and Latin American Revolutionaries.

Today he announced that Public Works Minister Osmani Cienfuegoes would head the 13-member secretariat set up to promote revolution until the next full meeting, in Cairo in 1968.